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Guidelines and recommendations for regional approaches to disarmament within the context of global security

Chairman's working paper

I. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN REGIONAL DISARMAMENT, ARMS LIMITATIONS AND GLOBAL SECURITY

1. Regional and global approaches to disarmament and arms limitations complement each other and both should be pursued in order to promote regional and international peace and security.

2. The regional approach to disarmament and arms limitations is one of the essential elements of global efforts to strengthen international peace and security.

3. Global disarmament and arms limitations, both in the field of conventional weapons as well as nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, have a positive impact on regional disarmament and arms limitations efforts.

4. Any regional measure on disarmament and arms limitations should take into account the relationship between security in the region and international security as a whole.

5. Regional and interregional agreements on disarmament and arms limitations should enhance global security.

6. Regional arrangements on disarmament and arms limitations should contribute to the achievement of agreed goals and priorities for global disarmament.

II. PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES

1. Any regional arrangement on disarmament and arms limitation should be in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

2. Any regional arrangement on disarmament and arms limitation should be agreed freely between the States of the region concerned. In defining the region to which such arrangements shall apply, States participating in regional arrangements on disarmament and arms limitations should act in accordance with international law.

3. Any regional approach to disarmament and arms limitations has to take into account the specific conditions and characteristics of the region.

4. Regional arrangements on disarmament and arms limitations should contribute to increasing stability within a region, on the basis of undiminished security for all the participating States.

5. Regional arrangements on disarmament and arms limitations should have no harmful effects on the security of States inside and outside the region.

6. Regional approaches to disarmament and arms limitations should give priority to the elimination of the most destabilizing military capabilities and imbalances.

7. Regional approaches to disarmament and arms limitations should interact positively with other initiatives of a region to enhance its security.

8. Regional approaches to disarmament and arms limitations should be pursued to achieve security and stability in a region at the lowest possible level of armaments and armed forces. This may free resources for the purposes of the economic and social development of States.

9. Regional approaches to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction contribute to regional and international peace and security.

10. Regional approaches should seek to address all aspects of disarmament and arms limitations relevant to the specific security situation of the region concerned, without precluding step-by-step approaches whenever appropriate.

11. Regional approaches to disarmament and arms limitations are particularly needed in regions where serious tensions and high levels of armaments endanger regional and international peace and security.

12. Regional approaches to disarmament and arms limitations can promote a comprehensive political settlement of regional conflicts. On the

other hand, a favourable political environment facilitates agreement on regional disarmament and arms limitations arrangements.

13. Regional approaches to disarmament and arms limitations should promote transparency and openness in military matters in order to build confidence between the States of the region concerned and thus further cooperation in all areas of inter-State relations.

14. Regional agreements on disarmament and arms limitations should comprise, as appropriate, verification measures to ensure compliance.

15. Extraregional States should respect regional agreements on disarmament and arms limitations and refrain from any activities harmful to the implementation of those agreements.